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THREE INSTALLATIONS COMPLETED AT AN-SHAN IRON AND STEEL COMPANY

[Comment: This report on the successful completion in December 1953 of three major projects of the An-shan Iron and Steel Company in December 1953 is taken from an editorial in the 27 December 1953 issue of the Tientsin Ta Kung Pao. The editorial states that preparations are being made for a second and a third center for the iron and steel industries and that, for the first 5-year program, 141 major projects are planned.]

Three major engineering projects of the An-shan Iron and Steel Company, the heavy rolling mill, the seamless steel tube plant, and blast furnace No 7, are now complete. These installations, which began operations on 26 December 1953, are important in the expansion of China's heavy industry, in the implementation of the first 5-year economic construction plan, and in China's socialist industrialization. In connection with these projects, gratitude is due not only to the workers involved but also to the Soviet government, and its citizens, and to the Soviet technicians who aided in these projects. China's iron and steel industry will be greatly bolstered by these installations.

The An-shan Iron and Steel Company is China's first gigantic iron and steel enterprise. Formerly, under Japanese control, with antiquated equipment, low production rates, poor labor policies, and inadequate steel rolling equipment, the amount of iron and steel produced was not sufficient to meet the needs of China's industry. It normally takes 10 years to build up an iron and steel industry, but at present it is not practical for China to wait so long. The present industrial base must be expanded and exploited to the fullest extent to fulfill the needs of China's First Five-Year Plan and to prepare for the establishment of the second and third bases for new iron and steel industries. Since the liberation of An-shan, the People's Government has made vigorous efforts to rehabilitate the An-shan Iron and Steel Company and to expand and rebuild it into a powerful heavy industrial enterprise.

The construction of the heavy rolling mill, the seamless steel tube plant, and blast furnace No 7 and of the other projects already started is part of a large-scale expansion and rebuilding planned for the An-shan Iron and Steel Company. As each project is completed, An-shan grows stronger. Formerly it was impossible to roll large steel products, heavy rails, or seamless tubes, but now the needs of the entire nation for these products may be met. Thus, each project completed by the An-shan Iron and Steel Company will assist China's industrial and agricultural production and will lead to the people's economic well-being.

These three projects have again demonstrated that, in order to transform the nation from an agricultural nation into a progressive industrial nation, China's socialist industrialization must begin with the development of heavy industry. Under the guidance of the party, the Chinese People's Government has planned 141 major projects for the first 5-year program. In the fulfillment of these plans, plants necessary for the industrialization of China must be built.

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In the construction of these three gigantic plants, serious technical difficulties were encountered as a result of China's industrial backwardness and technical deficiencies. The Chinese people are determined to overcome these difficulties within a short period so that all new expansion or reconstruction projects can be installed with modern equipment in accordance with advanced technical standards. The successful completion of these three projects in An-shan has proven this determination.

During 1953, to complete these complicated mechanized projects, the An-shan Iron and Steel Company established a planning company and the following engineering companies: civil construction, metal structure, industrial pipe, machinery installation, electrical installation, furnace construction, blast furnace, steel refining, and steel rolling. About 50 categories of skilled workers such as surveyors, excavators, cement workers, electricians, electrical welders, pipe fitters, and bulldozer operators were being trained in 1953 for these activities. Trainees soon became technicians, and the number of An-Shan workers and technicians increased threefold. About 200 skilled workers became technicians, and over 1,450 technicians were promoted. Many long-standing cadres who had been unfamiliar with industrial activities soon became well-informed. While the workers were being trained, they were also aiding in the successful completion of the three projects.

The completion of these three projects illustrates the great friendship between the Chinese and Soviet peoples. The Soviet Union not only aided in the construction of these projects but also helped to train large numbers of skilled workers, technicians, and cadres. It also supplied the equipment. The belief of the Chinese people that Soviet aid is sincere and disinterested and that Soviet techniques are the most advanced in the world has been further deepened through the construction of these three projects and through Soviet aid in other fields of China's construction. This belief, in turn, is adding to the confidence of the Chinese people in their struggle for the socialist industrialization of the nation.

The heavy rolling mill, the seamless steel tube plant, and blast furnace No 7 of the An-shan Iron and Steel Company will not only inspire the Chinese people but will give them greater confidence in their struggle for industrialization during the present transition period.

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